

### Christmas! From: Non-Christians metroLIFE

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016

High 2°C/Low -15°C Rain and snow 💟 🕧



### Another 'loud message' to the province

**Employees** union votes down contract, like teachers



Inspired by teachers, the Nova Scotia General Employees Union voted 94 per cent to reject a tentative agreement the provincial government delivered about a year ago.

About 4,600 out of 7,300 members voted.

"This sends a loud message to the premier that our members want to go back to the table," said Jason MacLean, NSGEU president.

He said it's a stand against Bill 148, which would impose a four-year wage package on public servants.

MacLean said they want to maintain their current collective agreement instead of the government's proposed wage and benefit reductions.

"What's happening right now is we have the government attacking and trying to pull things out of the collective agreement. Status quo is looking pretty good to us."

They can't strike so the next steps could be conciliation and arbitration, but MacLean said if the government intends to proclaim Bill 148, they'll take them to court. He said they believe it is unconstitutional.

MacLean said NSGEU mem-

bers were bolstered by teachers rejecting their deal.

Also Wednesday the province announced it had asked the Nova Scotia Teachers Union back to the table.

Liette Doucet, NSTU president, said they will be meeting Saturday.

"We were surprised to receive (a letter from the premier) because we didn't expect it to come," she said. "We're pleased we're going to have a chance to go back to the

She said she likes to think there is strength in numbers with both unions in a similar position but the contracts and bargaining strategies are different.

More coverage, p. 6

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Your essential daily news

Canadian beauty queen Anastasia Lin reportedly can't speak her mind at Miss World pageant. World

# Provincial marijuana plan shrouded in smoke Survey

**Nova Scotia** not ready to talk strategy on legalization



Adina Bresge For Metro | Halifax

The Nova Scotia government has formed two working groups to get into the weeds of marijuana legalization, but the province's plans remain a little hazy.

A federal task force on marijuana legalization released a report this week recommending mail-order and storefront sales to people over the age of 18, with a 30-gram limit on personal possession of recreational pot.

The report contained more than 80 recommendations about how legalized marijuana should be produced, regulated and sold.

Premier Stephen McNeil, and three departments heading a federal-provincial-territorial working group on the province's marijuana legalization strategy, will not comment on any of them.

The Departments of Justice, Health and Wellness and Finance and Treasury Board are the senior officials in a work-



Halifax-area pot smokers could have a wait ahead of them before legalized marijuana hits store fronts. The province says it is waiting for the federal government to pass legislation before determining the details of a model for Nova Scotia. JEFF HARPER/METRO

The health and safety of all Canadians, especially children and youth, remains a top priority.

Sarah Gillis

ing group on the legalization, and regulation of cannabis in

"We've just received the report and are reviewing the task force's recommendations," Sarah Gillis, a spokesperson for the Department of Justice, said in a statement Wednesday.

Officials at the premier's office, the health department and the finance department declined to comment on the task force's findings, referring Metro back to the Department of Justice.

Nova Scotia also has an "interdepartmental" working group looking into marijuana policy, which includes representatives from across government, said Gillis.

The inner workings of the working groups are clouded.

Gillis could not be reached by the end of day Wednesday to clarify each working group's role in crafting policy.

According to Torstar News Service, Ontario has 12 provincial departments working

to roll out a cannabis strategy. Despite some Nova Scotians' high expectations, it may still

be awhile before legalized marijuana reaches a store near you. :

to pass legislation before de- 

cent last November. termining the details of how legalized marijuana will be sold • rijuana use is higher in Nova and what impact it could have . Scotia, the study found, while on tax revenue.

"The federal government has  $\ddot{}$  the lower end of the scale. significantly shifted policy on \*

More than half of Maritimers support legalizing marijuana for recreational use, according

Corporate Research Associ- ates released a survey Wednesday that found 53 per cent of Atlantic Canadians were propot legalization for personal use, up from 49 per cent in Nov. 2015.

The results marked the first time a majority of participants on East Coast supported recreational marijuana legaliza-· tion since the tracking study " began in 2012.

The study found 41 per cent of Atlantic Canadians surveyed opposed legalizing weed for recreational purposes, un- changed since the previous survey.

More people had made up their minds on the issue, according to the results, since the percentage of participants who reported that they "do not know or do not have an opin-Gillis said the provincial gov- • ion on the matter" decreased ernment is waiting on Ottawa , to six per cent from 10 per

Support for recreational ma-Prince Edward Island was on

More than eight in 10 Atlancannabis," Gillis said. "Nova : tic Canadians are in favour of Scotia will ensure that the \* medical marijuana legalization health and safety of all Can- \* and support is consistent across adians, especially children and . the region, according to the youth, remains a top priority." " survey. ADINA BRESGE/FOR METRO



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## Heavyweights at UFC Halifax

FIGHT NIGHT

### **Junior Dos** Santos, Stefan Struve are the main event

Former heavyweight champion Junior Dos Santos will face Stefan (Skyscraper) Struve in the main event of a Halifax UFC card on Feb. 19.

The two big men first met at UFC 95 in February 2009 when Dos Santos won by first-round knockout.

Dos Santos (18-4) is ranked fourth among heavyweight contenders while the seven-foot Struve (32-8) is No. 11.

The six-foot-four former

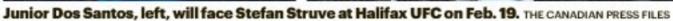
champion from Brazil is coming off an April win by decision over Ben Rothwell but has lost three of his last six, with two of the defeats coming in title fights against Cain Velasquez.

Struve, who fights out of the Netherlands, has won his last two - submitting Daniel Omielanczuk last time out in October. He has also lost three of his last six.

Both main event fighters were on good runs beforehand. Dos Santos has won 13 of his last 16 while Struve won seven of 10.

The televised Fight Night show at the Scotiabank Centre also marks a return to action for Toronto middleweight Elias (The Spartan) Theodorou (12-1), who faces American-based





Brazilian Cezar Ferreira (12-5). Both men hold Ultimate Fighter titles with Theodorou winning The Ultimate Fighter Nations while Ferreira took Season 1 of The Ultimate Fighter Brazil.

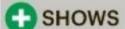
Lightweight Alessandro Ricci (10-4) of Woodbridge, Ont.,

tackles Mexican Alvaro Herrera (9-4) while Montreal bantamweight Aiemann Zahabi (6-0) makes his UFC debut against Brazilian Reginaldo Vieira (14-

Zahabi is the younger brother of renowned MMA trainer

Firas Zahabi, who has trained former UFC champion Georges St-Pierre, welterweight star Rory MacDonald and a host of other top fighters.

Welterweight Nordine Taleb (11-3), a native of France based in Montreal, faces American-



The February show will be the UFC's 23rd in Canada and second in Halifax.

Other cities to host events are Calgary, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec City, Saskatoon, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg.

based Argentine Santiago Ponzinibbio (24-3).

Welsh middleweight Jack Marshman (21-5) takes on Brazilian Thiago Santos (13-5).

Tickets go on sale Thursday at 10 a.m. through Ticket Atlantic. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SPECIAL STATEMENT

### Frigid times on the way

The relatively mild weather isn't going to last.

Environment Canada posted a special weather statement for Halifax Wednesday afternoon warning that "very cold air and strong northwesterly winds overnight Thursday night and Friday morning will cause temperatures to drop to minus 15 to minus 20."

"Wind chill values Friday morning will be near minus 30 giving significant risk of frostbite," the statement warns.

Most counties in Nova Scotia are currently under either a statement or warning, with parts of Cape Breton facing a wind warning, and the Valley and the north shore hunkering down under a snow squall warning. METRO



WEATHER MILDER TEMPERATURES TURN SNOW TO RAIN People shuffle across Spring Garden Road in the afternoon rain on Wednesday. Two days after Halifax was hit with snow, the city enjoyed slightly warmer temperatures which kept the precipitation from not being of the white variety. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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### Minister responds to contract rejection

#### LABOUR

### Union head says members want to return to bargaining

Finance Minister Randy Delorey said the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union (NSGEU) deal voted down by a 94 per cent margin was fair and affordable.

The province had offered a four-year contract that started with a two-year wage freeze followed by a three per cent increase in the final two years.

"Our fiscal position has been very clear, and that means that any plan that comes forward that gets negotiated has to respect our ability pay and not put at risk our fiscal plan," said Delorey in response to the vote being released Wednesday.

Delorey said his government would reach out to the union. He said the province would proclaim Bill 148 "if we believe the fiscal position is put in jeopardy." The minister is expected to provide an update on the province's finances Thursday.

NSGEU president Jason Mac-Lean said the union does not want arbitration, mediation or conciliation. He said members want to return to the bargaining table, and they're not concerned with Bill 148. The union has proposed a three-year agreement with wage increases that would be tied to the province's economic growth and the consumer price index. THE CANADIAN PRESS



The union had initially recommended the membership should ratify a tentative agreement reached more than a year ago, but it later changed its position, telling them to reject the deal.



Labour unions, including the NSGEU, march along Spring Garden Road during the annual Labour Day rally in Halifax in 2015. JEFF HARPER/METRO

#### APPEA

### Court denies couple oceanfront pool

A wealthy Halifax couple who took their quest for an oceanfront swimming pool all the way to Nova Scotia's highest court have lost.

John and Esther Ghosn built a mansion on the Northwest Arm, a picturesque inlet off Halifax harbour, and wanted a pool overlooking the water.

A ruling Wednesday from the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal made it clear why.

"It's a lovely spot," the court said about the Northwest Arm in a decision released Wednesday.

"The Arm's properties roll down to saltwater that laps on a sheltered shore just a stroll from the city's amenities."

The couple's application was denied by the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM).

It said under land-use bylaws the pool was too close to the water's edge, less than the required 30 feet, although the setback was deep enough under the city's swimming pool bylaw.

The Ghosns undertook great expense to make room for the pool by extending their property into the Arm, which was allowed because their property includes a historic water lot.

"It seems the Ghosns decided that if HRM thought the shoreline was too close to their proposed pool, they would solve the problem by moving the shoreline farther away," the province's Utility and Review Board said in its earlier decision in the case.

But the city still wouldn't issue a permit, saying any land changes past 2007, when the city updated its land-use bylaws, couldn't be considered.

The Ghosns appealed to the Utility and Review Board, which denied them the permit, saying the land-use bylaw took precedence.

They then took their case to the appeal court, saying the board's interpretation was unreasonable.

The appeal court didn't

"The board's decision was reasonable under this court's standard of review," the court said.

The court did, however, refuse to award the municipality its legal costs for the appeal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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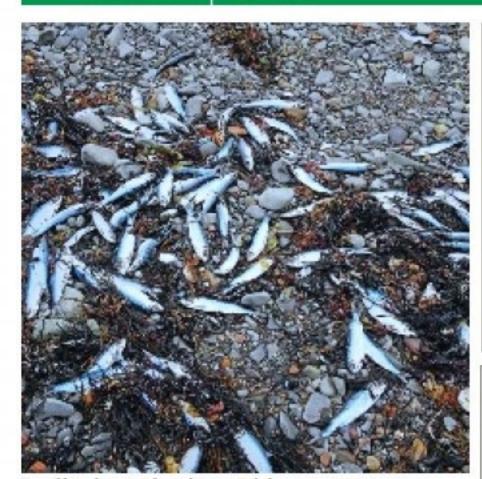


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Dead herring on a beach near Brighton. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# 'A bit of a mystery'

OCEANS

### Scientists still unsure what killed herring off the coast

Scientists remain baffled by what has caused tens of thousands of dead herring to wash ashore along Nova Scotia's southwestern coast, despite a battery of tests.

"What it is, is a bit of a mystery," said David Whorley, director for Fisheries and Oceans Canada in southwest Nova Scotia.

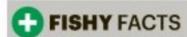
The first sightings were reported late last month along the eastern edge of St. Marys Bay, and more dead fish were later spotted on beaches in the Annapolis Basin and farther west, near Pubnico, N.S. There have been no major sightings in recent weeks.

"We've made some progress and have ruled out a few things, but we haven't found the actual cause yet," Whorley said in an interview Wednesday.

The tests have produced negative results, including the fact that no infections or infectious agents have been detected in the small, silvery fish.

As well, Whorley said examinations of the herring have failed to find any obvious signs of damage, and molecular testing of tissue samples showed they were clear of some types of viruses and harmful bacteria.

More testing is on the agen-



Herring are known as a forage fish, which means their large schools play an important roll in feeding whales, seabirds, seals and larger fish, such as cod.

da, he said.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, for example, is looking for toxins caused by algae, and for the possible presence of domoic acid a toxin sometimes found in shellfish.

"The fact that (the testing) is coming up negative is good news," Whorley said. "Some of these are nasties."

Among other things, the herring don't appear to have infectious salmon anemia, a viral disease that can wreak havoc in open-pen fish farms. Testing has also ruled out infectious pancreatic necrosis and hemorrhagic septicemia.

Earlier speculation had suggested the herring could have been driven ashore by whales or other predators, but three surveillance flights have failed to spot any large mammals along that section of the coastline, Whorley said.

Pollution and parasites have also been mentioned as possible causes.

People should report any sightings of dead herring, but they should refrain from collecting samples, as a precaution, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RETAIL

## Province drops licence requirement for stores to sell movies, video games

The Nova Scotia government is acknowledging the obvious: Most people no longer rent or buy their movies and video games at stores.

The province announced Wednesday that stores no longer need a licence to sell or rent them.

Service Minister Mark Furey says the change is "in direct response to a change in consumer behaviour," because most people now get such content from iTunes and similar providers.

The government says stores must still ensure items are properly classified, and that consumers can see and understand the classifications.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

\$199

Amount retailers had paid every three years to have a licence to sell movies and video games in their stores 672

Number of licences Service Nova Scotia issued in 2015-2016, compared to 919 in 2006



# Former teacher gets house arrest for two sex offences

**CAROLYN AMY HOOD** 

### Victims were between 15 and 17 years old at the time

Thursday, December 15, 2016

Carolyn Amy Hood has been handed a conditional sentence for sex offences she committed involving minors.

Hood will be under house arrest for 15 months (six months for crimes involving one boy and nine months for those involving the other).

During that time she will be under electronic supervision. She is also required to pay a \$200 victim surcharge for each offence and must give a DNA sample and go on a sex offender registry for life. She will also have a 10-year weapons ban and a lifetime ban on prohibited weapons.

She must stay away from places where children frequent for 10 years unless ac-

companied by an adult. She's not allowed to consume drugs or alcohol and can't frequent places where alcohol is served.

She must stay two kilometres away from her victims and must have no contact with them. She can't work with children except her own. She must stay off the internet except for work and then only under adult supervision.

Judge Del Atwood said in Pictou provincial court on Wednesday that he was persuaded by a doctor's report that Hood experienced symptoms of bipolar disorder.

He said her mental state led to risk-taking and "a reckless adventure" for Hood.

He said she felt like a peer to the victims who were between 15 and 17 years old at the time of her offences and that she was not grooming the victims.

He said medical reports indicate she is a low risk to reoffend.

The judge also agreed with



Carolyn Amy Hood at Pictou provincial court this fall. TC MEDIA

the defence that a mandatory minimum was not acceptable and said that Hood is an excellent candidate for a conditional sentence.

Hood had admitted to four

of the six charges that include two counts of luring, sexual interference and sexual exploitation. The charges were laid in relation to offences involving minors from Feb. 1 to

Sept. 30, 2013.

She was teaching Grade 6 at Thorburn Consolidated at the time when it was a Primary to Grade 9 school.

#### ANIMALS

### Two men admit cruelty



Zane Woodford Metro | Halifax

Two North Preston men pleaded guilty to animal cruelty charges this week after 24 dogs were seized from their property last

Warren and Makell Cain changed their pleas from not guilty to guilty on Tuesday on six counts each of animal cruelty, according to a news release from the SPCA.

The SPCA says the men had 24 pitbulls on their property, and they were charged with offences including confining an animal to unsanitary conditions as to significantly impair the animal's health or wellbeing, and causing an animal to be in distress.

Warren Cain was sentenced to a lifetime ban on owning animals, and fined \$11,399.65 in restitution to the SPCA, and \$1,500 in fines to the courts.

Makell Cain was sentenced to a 15-year ban on owning animals, and \$1,000 in fines to the courts.



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For the past two years, more than 100,000 people have laced up their skates at the Emera Oval. This year should be no different. JEFF HARPER/METRO

### An oval lot of fun on the ice

HALIFAX COMMON

Cold weather promises a big year for skating



Taplin For Metro | Halifax

If that nasty sun and warm weather stays away, the Emera Oval is set for a big year.

The oval on the Halifax Common is scheduled to open for a new season Thursday, weather dependent, and is ready to welcome a flood of skaters.

Rhonda Dea, co-ordinator of Aquatics and Leisure Services, said last winter they had 120,000 skaters take to the ice. That's down about 10,000 from the 2014-15 season because they had to shut it down a month early due to warm temperatures.

"I think it shows that absolutely there is a need for free access for people," Dea said. "It's multi-generational. There are not a lot of places you can go where you can see everybody taking part from parents to children and grandparents ... you don't get to see that in a lot of environments."

The Oval Pavilion building opened last December and it made a huge impact on winter as well as summer usage Dea said.

> "I can see a tremendous difference when I'm on site at the oval with seniors and younger children," she said.

"I definitely see people taking advantage of the washroom facilities as well as the warm-

Dea said they had 45,000 people rollerblading, biking, scooting and more between April and October this year.

"Which was up from the year before when we opened in June and closed in October and we had 7,700 people. So the word spread and it was amazing," she said.

There are times, especially

oval seems to have more people on it than ice. But so far they haven't had to limit numbers. "We've had some skates where we were like, 'holy

during special events, when the

smokes' but not to the point where we were concerned about safety or anything like that." Skates, helmets and safety

gear aren't the only rentals. Dea is particularly excited about a new edition coming later this month: kicksleds.

"We're starting small to see if this is going to work. They're accessible so parents of a child with a disability or even an adult they can put them on the push sleds and they can push them around all through the Common," Dea said.

They're also going to try using the sleds on the ice, she added.

Snowshoes will also be loaned out again this year, and Dea said she's hoping that picks up as word spreads.

\$916,000

Annual operating cost for 2015-16, including staff, equipment, training maintenance, security, and garbage removal.



It's such a positive, happy atmosphere when you're ... skating on the ice, and everybody is smiling. Rhonda Dea



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## Lottery to replace visa system

REUNIFICATION

### Spots allotted by random lottery after red flags raised

Coveted spots for the parent and grandparent visa program will be awarded by lottery in 2017 after the federal Liberals have scrapped the old firstcome, first-serve system that had raised concerns over people paying to be at the front of

Applications for the over-subscribed program had been accepted only via courier or mail at a single immigration office, and since they were processed in the order received, couriers had been doing brisk business promising to be at the front of the line, in exchange for fees that could be as high as \$400.

But that system has now been replaced by a random draw, the federal immigration minister announced Wednes-



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister John McCallum speaks during question period in the House of Commons on Oct. 31. McCallum said Wednesday that coveted spots for the parent and grandparent visa program will be awarded by lottery starting in 2017, scrapping the old firstcome, first-serve system. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

"We're ensuring everyone can access the application process by giving them the same chance to have their name

chosen," Immigration Minister John McCallum said in a

Beginning Jan. 3, Canadians will have 30 days to fill out an online form indicating their desire to sponsor a parent or grandparent. Immigration officials will then randomly draw 10,000 individuals who will

A lot of people had been preparing for this, throughout the year. A lot of people had been rejected in the past and were looking forward to this year.

Chris Colaco

then be given 90 days to submit the application.

The change comes after The Canadian Press reported that the previous first-come, firstserve process was seeing couriers charge more than \$400 to guarantee applications would be at the top of the pile.

That raised concerns that the visas were going to those who could afford to pay the high fees or camp out for hours at the immigration office.

High demand came in part from the fact the previous Con-

servative government closed the program entirely between 2011 and 2014 to bring down a massive backlog. It re-opened in 2014 with a annual cap of 5,000 applications. Last year, 14,000 applications were received and the Liberals later raised the cap on the number of applications they would accept to 10,000.

Couriers had already started taking reservations to deliver 2017 applications, with fees ranging from \$60 to \$200, depending on whether someone wanted to guarantee their application was delivered first.

One company, Metro Mississauga, said it had about 150 reservations already and was now in the process of refunding all fees.

Company owner Chris Colaco said while he understood why the government was making the change, he wondered why it couldn't have been announced earlier. His business doesn't depend on delivering the applications, but Canadians do depend on the program, he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



An Edmonton city planner says officials won't "white wash" proposed indigenous street names, even if some residents have a hard time pronouncing them.

Cory Sousa, a principal plan-

ner in sustainable development who manages naming roads, said Tuesday the city's naming committee largely doesn't let pronunciation issues alter approvals for new street names.

"Something hard to pronounce or spell is personal perception," Sousa said.

"We're not going to cater to one group or be colonial. We have to reach out to indigenous people who haven't been represented and honour them. We're not going to white wash it."

Sousa's assertions come a day after Coun. Bryan Anderson requested naming officials re-think the way they name new streets or neighbourhoods, after people complained to him they couldn't say or spell Maskêkosihk Trail.

## Indigenous street names won't be 'white washed,' official says electoral-reform survey

The federal privacy watchdog has opened a formal investigation into the Trudeau government's much-maligned online survey on electoral reform, which asks participants to disclose detailed personal information.

But privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien is not waiting to conclude the investigation before taking action to protect Canadians' privacy.

Therrien has provided preliminary recommendations to the government aimed at better protecting the privacy of people who participate in the MyDemocracy.ca survey, spokeswoman, Valerie Lawton said Wednesday.

Lawton confirmed that Therrien's office will investigate a complaint about the survey and hopes to have the issue resolved as quickly as possible.

A spokesman for Democratic Institutions Minister Maryam Monsef said the government "takes protecting Canadians" personal privacy very seriously" and will review Therrien's recommendations.

"Sharing demographic information is entirely voluntary and optional on MyDemocracy.ca,"

John O'Leary said.

The survey has been widely ridiculed for not asking questions about any specific voting models.

The MyDemocracy site does not ask respondents to reveal their names, but it does ask them to disclose gender, age, postal code, highest level of education attained, occupational work area, combined household income, first language learned, level of interest in politics and current events and whether they identify as a member of a specific minority group. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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# Five to 10 pot shops opening in Montreal

MARIJUANA

### Investors are lining up, says activist wife of 'prince of pot'

Several pot dispensaries set to open in Montreal on Thursday will be selling marijuana to recreational users despite federal rules that forbid such shops.

Jodie Emery, a marijuana activist who owns the Cannabis Culture brand with her husband Marc Emery, Canada's self-styled "prince of pot," said in an interview the number of outlets will be between five and 10.

She says investors are lining up to open retail outlets as Ottawa forges ahead with plans to legalize marijuana.

Anyone 19 and older will be able to buy marijuana, without membership or medical requirements, she added.



A man washes the store-front windows in Montreal Wednesday where a marijuana shop is expected to open Thursday. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Under current federal legislation, such outlets are illegal and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said the laws will stand until they are changed.

Emery, who will be in Montreal for the openings, said neither local police nor city officials have been in touch with her.

"I haven't heard from any law enforcement at all," she said.

"I know they've been told by the federal government that all laws across Canada must be enforced so the status quo remains the same."

Montreal police said such dispensaries are not permitted under federal rules governing medical marijuana and that they might intervene if laws are broken.

### **Threat of arrest** is part of civil disobedience.

Jodie Emery

Asked about the impending arrival of the boutiques, Mayor Denis Coderre said federal laws should apply, but he also cautioned that new marijuana laws are on the way next spring.

The Quebec stores have been teased for a few weeks on social media. Other Cannabis Culture locations in British Columbia. Toronto and Peterborough, Ont., have been targeted in police raids.

If they do get raided in Quebec, Emery said the plan is to reopen the next day.

"Threat of arrest is part of civil disobedience," she said. "We've already been through this many times."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Child benefit to cost billions: Watchdog

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Canada Child

next year - its

first full year.

Benefit program

cost of the

watchdog says the govern- the previous Conservative sys-

benefit will end up costing billions more after the next election if its value increases with the cost of living.

The Canada Child Benefit isn't indexed to inflation for now, and the Liberals haven't agreed to do that until 2020

 after the next scheduled federal election in 2019.

The parliamentary budget officer has already said the original cost to the government

The parliamentary budget would eventually equal that of ment's cornerstone child tem of benefits and tax credits.

which the Liberals replaced with the income-tested benefit.

However, in a new report today, the PBO says keeping up with inflation would cost federal coffers an extra \$301 million in 2020, rising to an extra \$5.8 billion in 2026. The total ex-

tra cost over that time frame? Almost \$22.3 billion, if the government in 2020 follows through on the Liberal plan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



#### Two kids, grandmother and mother die

Two children, their mother and great-grandmother have died in a house fire that has devastated a small southwestern Ontario community. Neighbour Adrienne Gerry said she ran across the street as

flames and heavy smoke engulfed her friends' home in Port Colborne, Ont., and watched emergency responders try to revive a woman. She said two other family members, including the children's father, managed to escape.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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### Aleppo ceasefire unravels

### People 'duped' by renewed fighting

A ceasefire to evacuate rebel fighters and civilians from the remaining opposition-held neighbourhoods of Aleppo unraveled on Wednesday, once again raising the spectre of a bloody end to the battle for Syria's largest city as residents reported the resumption of shelling and brutal bombing runs.

Opponents of President Bashar al-Assad accused the government and its allies of scuttling the deal by adding new conditions, including the lifting of a rebel siege on two pro-government Shiite villages in nearby Idlib province.

However, hours after it crumbled, the rebels said the deal was back on. There was no comment from the government or its allies, and minutes after the new ceasefire was to take effect, there were still reports of shelling in the few blocks of the city under rebel control.

Three rebel spokesmen said the first group of wounded people and civilians were to be escorted out of the city early Thursday morning. Rebels would follow,



Smoke is seen billowing in the background on Wednesday in a rebel-held neighbourhood of Aleppo. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

they said, adding that the conditions had not changed and that they had even agreed with the Russians on the exact number of buses and convoys to be deployed in the rescue.

The Syrian military media denied an agreement had been reached and said in a statement that the negotiations were "com-

The evacuation was to have

begun at dawn Wednesday, but quickly derailed, descending into terrifying violence. Residents said government buses arrived in the pre-dawn hours at agreed upon meeting points, where the wounded were first in line to be evacuated after surviving weeks of intense fighting amid destroyed medical facilities and depleted supplies.

But they were turned away by

pro-government militias manning the checkpoints. Then violence erupted: shelling and then air strikes. The rebels retaliated, at one point shelling the pro-government villages of Foua and Kfraya in Idlib and detonating a car bomb in a frontline area.

"They began to strike as if there's no such thing as a ceasefire or civilian evacuation," said Mahmoud Raslan, a local media

activist.

Mohammed Abu Jaafar, head of forensics in eastern Aleppo, said residents felt "duped."

"People have left their shelters .... to be ready for the evacuation," Abu Jaafar said. "They started to target the areas where people have gathered. ... These people were walking to the crossings designated for exit."



Anastasia Lin TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Canadian beauty queen reportedly muzzled at Miss World pageant

Canadian beauty queen Anastasia Lin is allowed to smile and look pretty at the Miss World pageant in Washington, but she's reportedly barred from opening her mouth and speaking her mind about human rights abuses in China.

Pageant officials wouldn't connect Torstar with Lin on Wednesday. Lin was blocked from attending last year's Miss World pageant in China after her criticism of human rights abuses against Falun Gong prac-

American news reports say that she's not allowed to speak with the media this time around.

And the hosts of a film in which she stars say she has been blocked from attending its Washington premiere tonight.

The film sharply criticizes Chinese human rights practices and is being presented by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

Lin, a Chinese-born actress, has posted on social media about human rights conditions in China, especially regarding the Falun Gong.

After she was barred from attending last year's pageant in

China, Lin had several speaking engagements, including talks at Oxford University, the National Press Club in Washington and the Oslo Freedom Forum.

The Miss World pageant has been held six times in Sanya in southern China since 2003 as Chinese businesses have become a prominent sponsor of the event.

#### **UNITED STATES**

#### Newspaper won't stand by story

The Associated Press published a story, relying on information from the Knoxville News-Sentinel, about a man portraying Santa Claus who says a terminally ill boy died in his arms. The paper now says that it cannot verify the man's story and no longer stands by it.

The story was about Eric Schmitt-Matzen, who said he had promised to protect the identities of the child's family. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### Vigilantes swap drug boss' mom for held man

One of the stranger chapters of Mexico's drug war had a relative happy ending Wednesday, after residents of a southern town freed the mother of a drug gang leader and the criminals released a kidnapped businessman.

The releases were part of a solution negotiated by the Guerrero state government to ease a standoff in Totolapan, a town in one of the prime opium-producing regions of Mexico.

Vigilantes angered by kidnappings and killings took up arms Monday and abducted the mother of a drug gang boss known as "El Tequilero."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### **TEXAS**

#### Pregnant women told to avoid town over Zika

Pregnant women should consider postponing travel to Brownsville, Texas, because of concerns about mosquitoes there spreading the Zika virus, federal health officials said Wednesday. The warning comes after five cases were recently diagnosed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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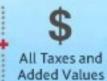
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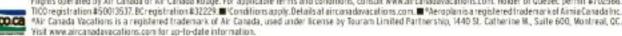








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### Remembering Sandy Hook

UNITED STATES

### Newtown marks mass shooting with solemn silence

Newtown held a moment of silence Wednesday and flags were flying at half-staff across Connecticut to mark the fourth anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

It was Dec. 14, 2012, when 20 children and six educators were killed by a troubled 20-year-old gunman who shot his way into the Connecticut schoolhouse. Adam Lanza fatally shot his mother before driving to the school, and then killed himself after the rampage.

President Barack Obama said in a Facebook post that the anniversary was a day to remember staff and teachers who guided children to safety, the first responders and the victims.

"And we remember the children who held each other in the face of unconscionable evil; who, even as they've grown up in the shadow of this tragedy, will grow up loved and cared for more fiercely than ever," Obama wrote.

Newtown typically does not hold an official memorial event on the anniversary, but prayer services were offered Wednesday and a counsellingcentre was open for extended hours. The governor ordered flags to fly at half-staff in remembrance of the victims.

First Selectman Pat Llodra asked town employees to refrain from doing any work, including answering phones, between 9:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. to mark the time when the shootings took place. In Newtown's schools, it was a regular day of classes, although School Superintendent Joseph Erardi said there would be quiet reflections and age-appropriate messages for students.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



SAN DIEGO LOTS OF HAPPY FEET A one-month-old macaroni penguin chick stretches its flippers at SeaWorld San Diego Penguin Encounter, amongst adult penguins of the same species, on Wednesday in San Diego, California. SeaWorld San Diego is world-renowned for its penguin breeding program, with nearly 1,000 chicks hatched since 1980. This year alone, a total of 11 macaroni chicks have hatched at the marine park, in addition to seven gentoo, four Adelie, six Magellanic and 10 Humboldts. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

### Reports of e-cigarette explosions rising

Katrina Williams wanted a safer alternative to smoking, and ecigarettes seemed to be the answer until the day one exploded in her pocket as she drove home from a beauty salon.

"It was like a firecracker" as it seared third-degree burns in her leg, blasted through her charred pants and stuck in the dashboard, the New Yorker said. That was in April. Williams, a freight manager, said she still hasn't returned to work. "It was very disturbing."

Similar painful accidents have been recorded with increasing frequency over the past year as use of e-cigarettes has climbed, with faulty batteries seen as the culprit.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which started regulating e-cigarettes in May, identified about 66 explosions in 2015 and early 2016, after recording 92 explosions from 2009 to September 2015.

New York Sen. Charles Schumer said the FDA should consider a recall, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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The Man In The High Castle is one of the originals Canadians

### will want to test drive on Amazon Prime Video. COURTESY AMAZON

### Prime time on Amazon

STREAMING VIDEO

### What to watch now the service has launched in Canada

Amazon Prime Video is officially here. Enjoyed for years in the U.S., Britain and elsewhere, Amazon is a streaming service not unlike Netflix.

Like Netflix, Amazon has courted and partnered with seasoned storytellers and is in business with the best.

First out of the gate is The Grand Tour, a reality motoring series starring Top Gear trio Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May. Beyond that show, here's a tour of some Amazon originals Canadians will want to test drive:

FLEABAG: Phoebe Waller-Bridge dares you to look away. Based on her one-woman play, this six-part British series has pitch-perfect black comedy. It stars Waller-Bridge as an audaciously unlikable young

woman trying to survive the mean streets of London.

RED OAKS: Set in the '80s, Red Oaks is about a young college student who works summers as a tennis pro at the snooty Red Oaks Country Club. Stealing scenes is Canadian Ennis Esmer (The Listener) who aces his role as the tennis pro.

### THE MAN IN THE HIGH

CASTLE: Shot in Vancouver. The Man in the High Castle spent a year as the best show filmed in Canada that Canadians couldn't (legally) see. The premise is an instant grabber: suppose Hitler had won. The drama is set in the early '60s with the U.S. divided on both coasts by Germany and Japan.

### **CRISIS IN SIX SCENES:**

Woody Allen stooping to television? Well, Amazon offered complete creative control. It is no Annie Hall. Miley Cyrus is more Whiny Cyrus as a '60s activist, but the real delight is seeing Elaine May shake off the **TUST.** THE CANADIAN PRESS

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### Billion Yahoo accounts hacked

Yahoo says it believes hackers stole data from more than one billion user accounts in August 2013, in what is thought to be the largest data breach at an email provider.

The California company was also home to what's now most likely the second largest hack in history, one that exposed 500 million Yahoo accounts. The company disclosed that breach in September. Yahoo said it hasn't identified the intrusion associated with this

theft.

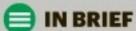
Yahoo says the information stolen may include names, email addresses, phone numbers, birthdates and security questions and answers. The company says it believes bankaccount information and payment-card data were not affected.

The new hack revelation raises fresh questions about Verizon's \$4.8 billion US proposed acquisition of Yahoo, and whether the big mobile carrier

will seek to modify or abandon its bid. If the hacks cause a user backlash against Yahoo, the company's services wouldn't be as valuable to Verizon. The telecom giant wants Yahoo and its many users to help it build a digital ad business.

Yahoo said Wednesday that it is requiring users to change their passwords and invalidating security questions so they can't be used to hack into accounts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



#### Ashley Madison's parent pays \$1.6M in settlements

The parent company of infidelity dating site Ashley Madison said it has reached settlements in an investigation led by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. Ruby Corp. said it has paid more than \$1.6 million US, with half the money going to the FTC and half to the states participating in the probe. THE CANADIAN PRESS







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### Thursday, December 15, 2016

Your essential daily news

REFLECTION

### Ending hate is on all of us

On Wednesday morning, Metro staffer Irene Kuan was the target of a racist remark hurled by a fellow transit rider. She has spent her whole life living and working in Toronto, and this was a first.



Irene Kuan Metro Toronto

"Go back to Hong Kong," a raspy voice of a man shouted at me, as I was about to exit the subway Wednesday morning.

It was so out of nowhere that the words didn't even register with me until about five minutes later, when I was outside Union Station in downtown Toronto.

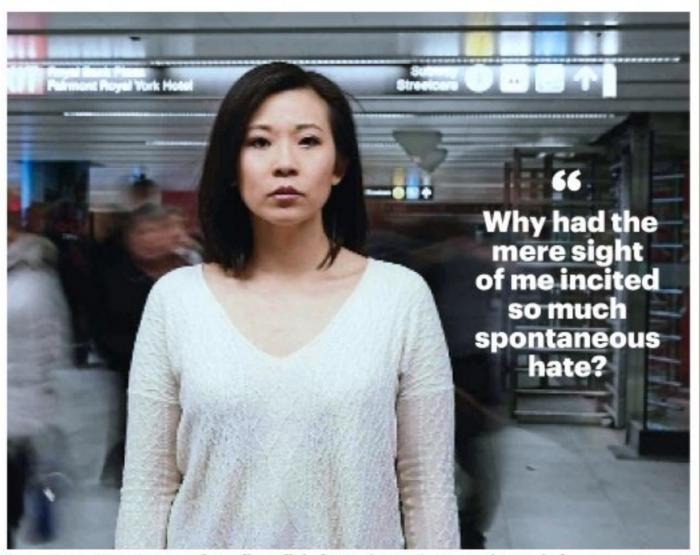
The first thing I actually thought about upon stepping out into the elements was the extreme cold weather alert that had been issued for the city that morning. But then it dawned on me: I'd been the target of a random verbal racist attack.

Working as I do in the news industry, I've been aware of the recent surge in public acts of racism, both in this country and in the United States - pro-"white people" posters on lightposts, spray-painted swastikas, verbal assaults of hijab-wearing women. But, as a Canadian-born Chinese journalist, I'd never really thought about it happening to me.

And then it did. A random person told me to go back to a place I'm not even from. And, at some point in the aftermath, it occurred to me that, no, this actually had happened to me before.

This past summer I was driving down an empty dirt road with my boyfriend in a ghost town called Vroomanton, northwest of Sunderland, Ont., when we suddenly saw a random flash of a middle finger from a Caucasian couple speeding by us on a motorcycle. Then, too, I had a delayed reaction. I realize now that in the moment I was more concerned about being presumptuous, about the possibility of taking offence to a gesture that, perhaps, was not as it had seemed. Others have since told me they'd be outraged if had been in my shoes.

Now, hours after the latest



Irene Kuan, Metro's managing editor, digital, stands on a Toronto subway platform. LANCE MCMILLAN/FOR METRO

incident, when I think back to the words that man said to me, I really don't know how to react. I'm not angry or upset, just surprised that it happened. Because it's 2016.

Both times, I found myself asking why I had been targeted. I was just going about my own business. I didn't do anything to provoke anybody. Why had the mere sight of me incited in perfect strangers so much spontaneous hate that they felt compelled to act out so randomly and viciously?

I know there's no logical answer; it's a senseless act. What, beyond acknowledging that an awful thing has happened, can I really say or do?

These experiences have led me think of the story of Stephanie Kim, a Toronto woman who was subjected to racial slurs standing in line at a TD bank back in November of this year. In recalling the event to the Toronto Star, Kim said that not even

the bank staff, let alone her fellow patrons, came to her defence as a man standing behind her in line called her a "chink." (By the way, Kim is Korean, not Chinese.)

Kim said that, more than the insults themselves; the staff's passive attitude when she complained about the man is what made her feel like a second-class citizen.

It's easy to see that the proliferation of these incidents is the natural by-product of the current political climate, in which some have

Metro ain't having it

Have you recently seen, heard or been the target of racist outbursts in your community? If so, how did you address it? How do you wish you addressed it? Tell us all about it. Tweet using the hashtag #ainthavingit or email us: readers@metronews.ca

been led to believe that phrases like "Make America Great Again" and "Canadian Values" are open invitations to promote, and directly express, bigotry and racism.

It's disappointing enough that there are people out there who, having apparently confused their resentmentfuelled desire to spew hate speech with their constitutional right to free speech, act out like this in public.

But even worse is that, collectively, we seem not yet to have realized how dangerous it is to stand by and accept hateful vitriol directed at others. In this way, our society normalizes hatred and resentment. And that's not any one individual's problem.

Neither the victim nor the perpetrator of racist violence, verbal or otherwise, should be expected to assume full responsibility for what all of us should be calling by its true name - hate and fighting against whenever, wherever and however it appears.

### VICKY **MOCHAMA**

### **Look out, Silicon** Valley, Canada Post wants in on the action

A House of Commons committee on Tuesday made recommendations for the future of Canada Post. There are dozens, some of which are things one hopes they're currently doing such as number 38: "Canada Post focus on its core competencies to help Canada meet the challenges of the 21st century."

However, the idea that caught my eye is a suggestion that the company create a "free digital infrastructure," which might mean "providing the basis for a Canadian social network." The committee's actual recommendations don't get into what that looks like or means but I think it's worth exploring.

Canada Post is, for example, ideally suited to run a Canadian version of Tinder. Using a combination of their near-pristine location data, Facebook profiles and types of mail received, Canadians might start hooking up courtesy of the nation's mail delivery service. Imagine the stories. "Kids, I met your grandfather when he swiped right on my profile because he saw that I was a skier who regularly sent express mail."

The marriage rate has been in decline for a while. With a Canada Post dating service (PostDates? Mail and Tail? Just thinking aloud here), we could turn things around for the nation's beleaguered single

That may not work for people who are already married unless Canada Post is

willing to compete with Ashley Madison.

For Canadians who are already coupled up, Canada Post could run a Snapchat-like service for couples worried whether their Christmas presents will arrive in time. Rather than a tracking number that says that your package has been in Mississauga for far too long, couples can get filtered pictures of their packages as they travel the country. Nothing adds a frisson to marriage like watching a box with a flower crown make its way to your mother-in-law. The excitement is hard to contain.

According to a 2011 piece by the Toronto Star, more than 18,000 wallets end up in Canada Post's Undeliverable Mail Offices. The company tries to reunite them with their owners. Other items, however, are sold off or destroyed after seven months. What if they ran a ChatRoulette-style services for those pieces? Just log in, press a button and you can get seven-months-late invoice from a dentist's office in Lethbridge. Or you could get a hand-stitched quilt from someone's grandmother. Sounds like a lottery with only winners to me.

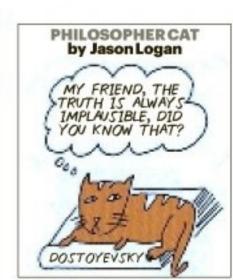
As the business of mail continues to shift dramatically, it's worth putting every idea on the table. For some, physical mail is a relic of the past but for others, it is still an essential need. A Canada Post with a strong and smart digital presence could marry both worlds.



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Cocoa prices fall to three-year low, making chocolate cheaper



#### CULTURE

### **Group rituals** bind a society together, says religion prof

Megan Haynes



Almeera Ismail adores Christ-

The 30-year-old Vancouver native goes all out: homemade cards, festive cookies, gifts for her nieces, a small tree.

But as a Muslim, Ismail didn't start celebrating until she was in high school when she and her sisters convinced their parents to let them get a Christmas tree. When she went to university in Ottawa, her love of the holiday grew.

"It was when I moved away and you reach for things that make you feel homey or ground you — that I started to really get into Christmas and the spirit of being around friends and family over the holidays," she says. When her sister entered an inter-faith relationship with a Christian man and the pair had a baby,

# Loving Christmas when you're not Christian



Vancouver resident Almeera Ismail goes all out for Christmas: she bakes festive cookies, decorates a tree and buys gifts for family. As a Muslim, her love of the holiday grew when she moved to Ottawa as a student, "and you reach for things that make you feel homey or ground you." JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO; INSET: COURTESY ALMEERA ISMAIL

even Ismail's parents came on board the holiday trend. Now, the whole family celebrates on Christmas Eve, exchanging presents and feasting.

Increasingly, people of all faiths and backgrounds are tuning into Christmas in some

A 2011 study by Ottawabased Abacus, which polled just over 1,000 people, found of the 92 per cent of respondents who said they celebrate

consider themselves Christian.

There are a couple factors at play here, says Christopher Helland, professor of religion in contemporary culture at Dalhousie University. First, as a society, we're becoming more secular: In 2011, Statistics Canada found a quarter of the population said they had no religious affiliation, up from 16 per cent in 2001. Second, we're seeing more people from other faiths arrive in the counthe holidays, 52 per cent do not try: from the last census, 8.8

per cent of the population is of a non-Christian faith, up from 4.8% a decade earlier.

As a result of this shift, society has moved towards a more inclusive season, opting for phrasing like "Happy Holidays," Helland says.

That has offended some people: "Some groups are very upset about that. (They) feel taking the Christ out of Christmas isn't a good thing," he says. However, the shift towards a less religious-filled holiday has

made it more acceptable of people of other faiths to participate however they want.

While there are some culturally imposed traditions, such as spending time with family, trees and gift giving, for those of different faith backgrounds wanting to celebrate, it's a great opportunity to build in new rituals without some of the pressures others might face.

"Sometimes the beliefs behind the rituals change, or





adapt, take on different meaning. But we certainly like to do the ritual - they are important," Helland says. In fact, allowing the tradition to change and adapt to be more inclusive can help be a bridge in society, he says.

It's not a new idea: an early sociologist, Emile Durkheim, said at the turn of the 20th century that in the absence of a religious tie, in a modernist society these group rituals become the things that bind a society together.

"It's pushed on us pretty heavily that 'This is the holidays, this where you do the gift giving and be with family," says Helland "It's hard to not be part of that if you're part of our society and culture."



All Christmas music 'til Dec. 25th

# She had 'brains, beauty and breeches'

INTERVIEW

Canada's Aloha Wanderwell was first woman to drive the globe

Sue Carter For Metro Canada

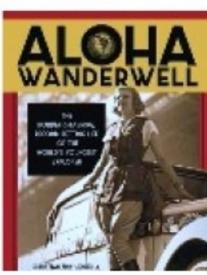
With her blond ringlets, Kewpiedoll lips and statuesque height, Aloha Wanderwell could be a Hollywood invention, leaning against a Ford Model-T, all sass and swagger. But what her 1920s publicity photo doesn't reveal and what has, for the most part, been buried in history - is that at the age of 16, Wanderwell embarked on an adventure that, among her many records, would make her the first woman to drive around the world, covering 380,000 miles and 80 countries before the age of 30.

Back in 1998, Vancouver television producer Randolph Eustace-Wallace, co-author of the

book Aloha Wanderwell: The Border-Smashing, Record-Setting Life of the World's Youngest Explorer, was using the brandnew Google search engine to research his own adventure when he stumbled onto her story.

Eustace-Wallace was looking for information on driving around the world when his cousin called from Ontario needing help with travel plans to Hawaii. He entered "Aloha Airlines" into Google, which mixed with his online search for driving, and up popped a story about Wanderwell. Intrigued, he saved the link, but it wasn't until a couple years later, when he partnered with journalist Christian Fink-Jensen. his co-author on Aloha Wanderwell, did their decade of detective work begin in earnest.

At this point, the duo didn't know that Wanderwell was originally named Idris Hall, born in Winnipeg in 1906, or that her husband had been jailed as a German spy (and later murdered). None of that is mentioned in her 1939 ghostwritten autobiography, Call To Adventure.



"The ghostwriter tarted it up, and added a lot of fiction, made it more melodramatic," says Eustace-Wallace. "When we first read it, we thought, 'It's too bad she's such a terrible writer,' but as it turns out, she was incredible."

Wanderwell's story is so incredible it doesn't require embellishment. In 1922, while the bored teenager was attending school, she answered an ad looking for women with "Brains, Beauty & Breeches" to accompany Captain Ralph Wanderwell whom she would eventually

marry — as a driver and secretary on his international expeditions.

"For 10 years, their escapades were front-page news," says Eustace-Wallace. And yet, he and Fink-Jensen found plenty of conflicting information during their arduous research process, mainly because Wanderwell had reinvented her own personal history. "It's difficult to tell a non-fiction story about someone who tried to keep their life under wraps," he says.

As it turns out, the key to unlocking Aloha's mystery was Wanderwell's children. In order to gain access to films produced by Wanderwell that had been bequeathed to the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian, Eustace-Wallace and Fink-Jensen needed permission from her two offspring. When Valri, who lived in Honolulu at the time, discovered that the two writers were Canadian, she embraced their request. As it turns out, she and her brother Nile, now in their 80s, had been raised on Vancouver Island, and still had fond memories of their early years.



Forgotten Canadian adventurer Aloha Wanderwell. CONTRIBUTED

The writers and children became close. During one trip to Honolulu, Valri appeared with a dusty tin box she had recently discovered that was labelled with her mother's initials. Eustace-Wallace picked the lock and discovered the "Rosetta Stone": Wanderwell's original passport containing every border crossing (many of which were contrary to

other reports), her logbooks and a draft of an unpublished memoir. they had all the details needed to shed light on one of Canada's most incredible adventurers. As Eustace-Wallace concludes, "It's the story of someone who was lost to history, and shouldn't be."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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### BOOK BRIEF

#### No pictures but Novak is back with a new release

B.J. Novak is back to his old tricks.

The actor and millionselling author is following up his beloved, all-words The Book with No Pictures with The Alphabet Book with No Pictures, Penguin Young Readers said on Tuesday.

The new work, which Penguin calls a "non-traditional" approach to teaching kids about language, is scheduled for publication next Septem-

In a statement issued through his publisher, Novak said he wanted young people to think of words as "funny, exciting and powerful."

Novak, whose acting credits range from The Office to Quentin Tarantino's cult hit Inglourious Basterds, has also written the story collection One More Thing.

In 2015, he and former Office co-star and onoff partner Mindy Kaling reached a deal reportedly worth upwards of \$7.5 million to write about their long friendship and former relationship. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### **Annoyed Hook Jaw** a rip-off of Jaws

By: Si Spurrier and Conor Boyle **Publisher: Titan Comics** (\$3.99)

Mike Donachie Metro Canada

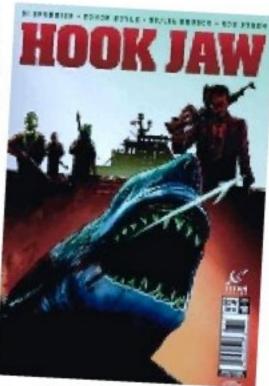
Imagine a comic book so violent that it caused a national controversy in the U.K., including hysterical condemnations in the national press and an eventual ban by its own publisher.

Now move forward 40 years, and imagine if it came back, written by an alumnus of zombie horror porn series Crossed. That's Hook Jaw, a new ongoing series that has its first issue this week.

The title character is a great white shark, and a blatant rip-off of Jaws, because that's how British comics worked in the 1970s. But this shark, as the name suggests, has a vicious hook embedded in its mouth, leaving it enormously annoyed with everyone and crazed with blood lust.

Hook Jaw first appeared in Action, an anthology so controversial that it only lasted 26 issues. The original strip was pretty much a series of grisly deaths, but now it has added plot in a five-issue series written by magnificent horrorist Si Spurrier.

The carnage takes place off Somalia, and apparently involves pirates, the U.S. Navy and some scientists. But I'll be rooting for Hook Jaw, making a welcome return.



metr@LIFE Entertainment Thursday, December 15, 2016 21

# Manchester by the Sea storms back with Screen Actors nods

NOMINATIONS

### La La Land hits wrong note as Guild opts for Affleck and co.

La Land may have hit all the right notes for the Golden Globes, but the Screen Actors Guild sung a different tune Wednesday, when Kenneth Lonergan's New England-set family drama Manchester by the Sea picked up the most nominations. Its leading four nods included best ensemble cast, best actor for Casey Affleck and best supporting performances for Michelle Williams and Lucas Hedges.

Barry Jenkins' coming-of-age tale Moonlight and Denzel Washington's August Wilson adaptation Fences followed with three each, including ensemble. They'll be competing with the fact-based NASA crowd-pleaser Hidden Figures and the family drama Captain Fantastic. Shut out of the coveted ensemble award was Da-



Michelle Williams was nominated for best supporting actress for Manchester By the Sea while Moonlight's Mahershala Ali also made the cut for supporting actor. HANDOUTS

mien Chazelle's candy-coloured musical La La Land, which scored nominations only for its leads, Emma Stone and London, Ontnative Ryan Gosling.

Sophia Bush and Common announced the nominees early Wednesday morning in West Hollywood, California.

In the past, SAG nominees have served as helpful predictors of who will land nominations in the four Oscar acting categories.

While some categories looked generally as expected, like the supporting actress nods for Williams, Fences' Viola Davis, Moonlight's Naomie Harris, Lion's Nicole Kidman and Hidden Figures' Octavia Spencer, others were quite surprising.

In the lead actress category, Annette Bening failed to pick up a nomination for 20th Cen-



tury Women. Bening had been an assumed lock for an Oscar nomination and had been considered a top contender against front-runners Natalie Portman (Jackie) and Stone (La La Land). both of whom were recognized. Instead, SAG nominated Emily Blunt for the adapted thriller The Girl on the Train, which scored tepid reviews from critics and had not been seen as a major awards contender. Meryl Streep (Florence Foster Jenkins) and Amy Adams (Arrival) were also nominated.

Lead actors nominated were Affleck, Gosling, Andrew Garfield (Hacksaw Ridge), Viggo Mortensen (Captain Fantastic) and Denzel Washington (Fences).

On the supporting side for actors, Moonlight's Mahershala Ali continues to dominate the category with another nomination. He'll be competing against Manchester's Hedges, Jeff Bridges for Hell or High Water, Dev Patel for Lion and Hugh Grant for Florence Foster Jenkins.

Also missing were nominations for Jeff Nichols' fact-based civil rights film Loving and its leads Ruth Negga and Joel Edgerton, as well as for French actress Isabelle Huppert, who has won many of the critics' awards for her performance in the edgy Elle.

On the television side, series newcomers The Crown, Westworld and Stranger Things all picked up three nominations each, alongside Emmys favourite The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story and Game of Thrones.

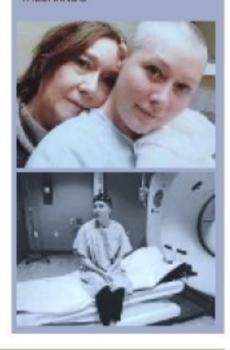
The 23rd annual Screen Actors Guild Awards take place Jan. 29 from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



### Doherty opens up on fight

Shannen Doherty is giving an up-close look at her fight against breast cancer.

The former Beverly Hills, 90210 actress shared an Instagram photo Tuesday of herself in a hospital gown alongside her mother. She wrote that she was undergoing another day of radiation adding, "Today my mom came with me because Even though I'm so tired after, I'm going Christmas shopping!!!" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS;INSTAGRAM/



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### Fragrant love notes for her

Picking out perfume is personal. Here are some top picks to help you wrap up the perfect scent for the special woman in your life this holiday season.

#### **Janine Falcon**



### The Free Spirit

Part of four new unisex eaux de parfum, Maison Margiela Replica Flying soars with bright citrus and crisp ozonic notes touched with earthy tendrils of musk and moss. \$200 at Sephora and Hudson's Bay.

#### The Bon Vivant

Housed in a deceptively simple, airy bottle, Alaia Eau de Parfum Blanche is vivacious and powder sweet, and teases with a whisper of musk. From \$122 at Hudson's Bay and Saks Fifth Avenue.



#### The Chic Bohemian

Luminous, sweet and flirtatious think alluring flower-fairies on a shimmering cloud of light Scent of a Dream is utterly Charlotte Tilbury. Inspiration sprang from the Ibiza-born celebrity makeup maven's own long-time signature fragrance, a blend of perfume oils she created for herself when she was teen. From \$105 at Holt Renfrew and Nordstrom.



#### The Minimalist

Lovely on their own and uniquely her when she layers them, the Clean Rollerball Layering Collection's five pocketsize fragrances evoke Air, Rain, Warm Cotton, Blossom and Skin. \$29, Sephora and Murale.



### **The Dreamer**

A spirited fruity floral, Luna by Nina Ricci entices with wild berries, citrus, caramel and Madagascar vanilla, and enchants with its fairy-tale flaçon. From \$72 at Shoppers Drug Mart and Murale.



### The Ingenue

CHANEL

A sensitive touch lighter, fresher and softer than its big-sister scent, Chanel No. 5 Eau honours its iconic roots as it beckons to a new, younger audience. From \$119 at Chanel counters.



"Honey, my gift is here."

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# Fragrant love notes for him

Picking out cologne for the best men in your life is personal, too. Here are some top picks to help you wrap up distinctive scents for him.

#### **Janine Falcon**

### **The Sweet Tooth**

A gourmand scent for him, Uomo Salvatore Ferragamo opens with spice and slides into creamy tiramisu folded into sweet woody notes and tonka bean. From \$82 at Hudson's Bay.





### The Suit

The newest after-five version of Boss Bottled, the Intense Eau de Parfum kicks up the woody and spicy notes with a more potent, longer-lasting dose of essential oils. \$102 at Hudson's Bay, Holt Renfrew, and Nordstrom.



### The Intellectual

A cool, sophisticated scent of amber, iris, and geranium with a patchouli and cedar base, Prada L'Homme is clean, understated and a touch reserved – in a good way. From \$84 at Nordstrom, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Hudson's Bay.



### The Jet-setter

A seductive oriental fougere of patchouli, oakmoss and vetiver wrapped in boldly sensual, leathery musk, Arquiste Él is an ode to thoroughly sun-warmed skin + after-dark cocktails and dancing. \$225 at etiket.ca.

### The Health Nut

Crisp and lively with citrus, mint and vetiver, and tempered with a hit of pink peppercorn and cardamom, classic Roger & Gallet L'Homme Sport is just one of many great scents for less at Canadian shopping site Scarlet & Julia. \$43 at scarletandjulia.com.





### The Throwback

Light, green and citrus to start, Mr. Taylor Cologne is an aromatic fougere scent that closes with spicy cedar and moss. About \$54 at taylorofoldbondstreet.com.



### Add a little bit of oddball this year

Tanya Enberg

striped HBC coat, pencil skirt, chic ankle boots. smart accessories, and a dapper pet poodle named Hudson. The Limit-

ed Edition Hudson's Bay Collection Barbie, \$59.99, at Thebay.com.

> Brighten up the stocking mix with these hilarious Emoji USB Chargers, \$24.99 at Winners.

Not sure what to get the cat lover who has everything? Struggle no more. This cat artwork says it all. \$19.99 at HomeSense.

wouldn't find the perfect present for the little mermaid on your list ... voila! The **Snuggie Tails** Mermaid blanket



has them covered literally. \$29.99 at ShopatShowcaseCanada.com.

Cheer up a crabby Grinch with a multi-tool crab that just wants to lend a helping claw. \$24.50, at Kikkerland.com.

paper, featuring Santa doing his business. Ideal for anyone with generally crappy washroom decor. \$9.99 at retrofestive.ca.

Come now, who

the Canadian mountains just isn't in the cards, the Lake Louise Breeze mini tin scented candle may just have to do. Imaginations required. \$10 at





Retro Festive Santa toilet paper 2 Lake Louise Breeze mini

tin scented candle Giant plush giraffe Cat artwork

> 1 Hudson's Bay Olympic Collection polarfleece travel

blanket

who's hard to buy for? Don't sweat it! With these weird and wonderful gift ideas, you're guaran-

Know somebody

teed to bring some holiday cheer to loved ones this year.

For fashionistas comes the iconic Barbie doll dressed in classic Canadian

Just when you thought you

Bring the festivities into the bathroom with **Retro Festive** Santa toilet

Friends and family

love and warmth with

the cozy Hudson's

Bay Olympic Col-

lection Polarfleece

Travel Blanket. \$50

Who couldn't use

some inspiration

with their morning

coffee? The Expression Mug - Take courage, dear heart,

little by little one walks far

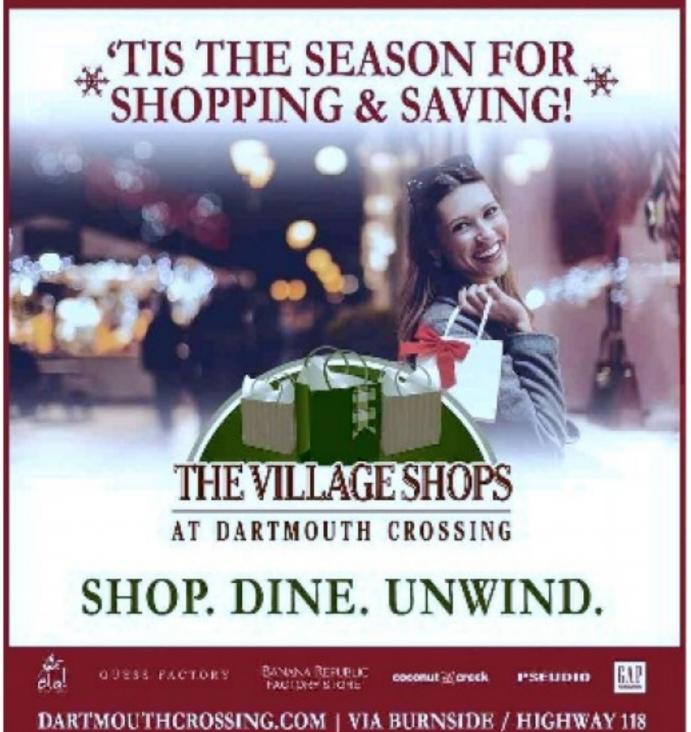
- will do the trick. \$15 at

at Thebay.com.

Indigo.ca.

are certain to feel the

The Snuggie Tails Mermaid blanket Emoji USB chargers Rikkerland's multitool crab Indigo.ca. 1 Indigo's Expression mug 10 Hudson's Bay Collection Barbie







# METHIONE !

Your essential daily news

Navy, copper, climbing plants declared top trends on Pinterest 100 list

### Fit some cheer into your tiny space

HOLIDAYS

### Creating focal points key to avoiding clutter

Piling on the holiday decor may be the most obvious way to decorate the home for the season, but for those with limited floor or wall space, too much finery can feel "a bit invasive," says designer Karl Lohnes.

The solution for small spaces, he suggests, is to pay attention to scale and create focal points. Lohnes did just that when dressing the 650-square-foot main floor of his own townhome, a space that incorporates the entrance, kitchen and living and dining rooms.

"Dotting things everywhere makes a smaller space look more cluttered, at Christmas or any time of year. So don't just, for example, pop cards here and there. I put up strings on the wall near my front door and hang cards there to make an impact," says Lohnes.

Designer Jo Alcorn may be thinking about larger-scale holiday décor — she just decorated the Table Rock Welcome Centre for Niagara Falls' Winter Festival of Lights — but she, too, recommends "focused" seasonal décor in small spaces.

"Tabletop decor is a great solution if you are short on floor space," Alcorn says. "You can use dining, side and cof-



Adding some glitter to the table is a simple way to bring a festive feel into your home, even if you don't have a ton of space.

COURTESY HOMESENSE

fee tables — all of them can incorporate holiday decor. I love putting a small tree on a table top — it adds interest and romance and works well for families with animals or young children."

For homes that don't have room for a wide-hipped tree, Lohnes likes to go tall and skinny, pointing to a 2.7-metre, pre-lit Dawson Pencil Pine tree from Walmart. Placing the tree on top of a box, which Lohnes wrapped in a faux-fur throw, gives it even more height.

Home Depot also offers a space-saving tree, with one flat side that stands up against a wall.

Lohnes owns an antique silver punch bowl that only gets used once or twice a season, so he makes it do double duty this time of year. Framed by gold and silver Christmas crackers, it's topped with inexpensive unbreakable ornaments from Walmart. First, Lohnes filled the bottom of the bowl with newspapers and layered baubles on top.

Lohnes also likes to create a "portable Christmas tray" filled with candles, nuts, potpourri and greenery.

"It can go from being a centrepiece in the dining room to a coffee table to a credenza. It's a way to have holiday in every room without having to decorate them all."

For holiday get-togethers in tight spaces, designer/stylist Janette Ewen — who jet-sets between her L.A.-based design studio Parker Barrow and a 3

I say bring on the sparkle — along with the peace on earth, please.

Cori Halpern

small footprint Toronto condo

— also likes to marry décor
with food and drink.

She makes garden urns stand in as ice buckets, using them to create drink stations.

"It looks great, eliminates servers and keeps guests from backlogging a bar," says Ewen, who will also serve guests glasses of Ruffino Prosecco with fruit-flavoured popsicles dropped in — a fun presentation that does away with the punch bowl.

Designer Cori Halpern keeps holiday décor restrained, yet she does love seasonal shimmer.

In her small Toronto house, she displays her collection of menorahs, placing them — wherever possible — near windows, where passersby can see them. She also piles LED strings into hurricane lamps, and fills glass vases with dreidels or shiny silver and goldwrapped Hanukkah gelt.

She favours metallic tones
— especially coppery golds —
for the holidays.

"A lot of people don't have metallics in their home at any other time of year, but they work with any décor — traditional, modern and anything in between. So I say bring on the sparkle — along with the peace on earth, please."

DESIGN

### This is not your father's rec room

When asked to build a luxury home for a house tour this year, designer Kenyon Woods opted to include a rec room — but not the rec room of his childhood.

Unlike old-time rec rooms with their wood paneling, ceiling tiles, box TVs and cast-off furniture, this one measures about 800 square feet on the main floor, with space for watching TV, shooting pool, rock climbing and more.

"Media rooms used to be off by themselves," said Woods, owner of Authentic Custom Homes in Oklahoma City.

"I'm tired of the theatre or game room being separated. Today, families want to be together" even if they're doing different activities.

Recreation rooms of all shapes and sizes are popular in new homes, according to a recent survey by U.S. Houzz and Home, an online source of interior design photos and decor ideas.

Gaming and entertainment spaces, gyms and playrooms were among the top uses for rec rooms, it said. Clients often want "several different areas in one large, open space," agreed Kristen DuChemin, design director for the Columbus, Ohio, homebuilder Romanelli & Hughes.

For some, that means adding game tables like foosball, shuffleboard, air hockey and billiards.

Chance Pack, spokesman for game manufacturer Valley Dynamo in Richland Hill, Texas, says sales of game tables, which dipped during the recession, have seen an uptick as the home-building industry rebounds. Parents and grandparents like gaming tables, he said, because they are interactive and intergenerational, luring kids away from electronics and into family activities.

"People are really focused on the entertainment aspect of their home," Pack said.

Minneapolis interior designer Billy Beson also recommends tables with built-in game boards and bean-bag chairs, which are great for TV viewing and can easily be moved when not in use. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Recreation rooms are gaining popularity in new home builds.

AUTHENTIC CUSTOM HOMES VIA AP



### IN BRIEF

### Dartmouth's Clayton rewarded with title shot

Custio Clayton will fight for his first professional title when he takes on Lanardo Tyner in a 10-round bout for the North American Boxing Association welterweight belt on Dec. 23, promoter Yvon Michel announced Wednesday.

Clayton (10-0), of Dartmouth, is coming off a knockout win over Ramses Agaton on Oct. 20. THE CANADIAN PRESS

#### Pens tame Bruins in OT

Bryan Rust flipped a backhander past Tuukka Rask 1:24 into overtime to give the Pittsburgh Penguins a 4-3 victory over the Boston Bruins on Wednesday night.

Racing down the slot, Rust took a swipe at Evgeni Malkin's centring pass and the puck fluttered by Rask to give the Penguins their seventh straight victory.

Pittsburgh (20-7-3) took the overall NHL lead with 43 points. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### Chelsea widens gap atop Premier League standings

Chelsea moved six points clear at the top of the English Premier League by beating lastplace Sunderland 1-0 on Wednesday, with Cesc Fabregas' first-half goal earning the team its 10th straight win.

Chelsea's club record is 11 straight wins, which was achieved in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## 'Flat' Mooseheads fall behind, never recover

**QMJHL** 

### Setback to Bathurst is Halifax's 4th straight defeat

Adam Richardson For Metro | Halifax

The Halifax Mooseheads looked like a team in need of a holiday break on Wednesday night.

The Mooseheads struggled through a listless first 40 minutes en route to a 5-3 defeat against the Acadie-Bathurst Titan in Quebec Major Junior Hockey League action at Scotiabank Centre.

"This is a 60-minute league and we only played 20 minutes," assistant coach Jim Midgley explained after the loss. "When you get behind like that, you chase the game. The last period was pretty good, but it's not the overall result that we wanted."

Halifax struggled to contain the speedy Titan, allowing 42 shots and relying on some sharp saves by rookie goaltender Alexis Gravel to keep the game within reach. A pair of goals by Jordan Maher and singles from Christophe Boivin



Halifax Mooseheads goaltender Alexis Gravel blocks a shot from Acadie-Bathurst Titan's Jeffrey Truchon-Viel at the Scotiabank Centre on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

### WEDNESDAY In Halifax



and Daniil Miromanov staked Bathurst to a 4-0 lead before Maxime Fortier got the Mooseheads on the board with a power-play goal late in the second period.

Keigan Goetz scored on a nice wrist shot early in the third to cut the lead in half, but Boivin added his second of the game midway through the final frame to spoil the comeback attempt. Benoit-Olivier Groulx added a late goal for the Mooseheads.

Goetz was one of the most

consistent Mooseheads, and said he was surprised by the slow start.

"We were flat," Goetz said.
"I'm not sure the reason, but
we need to come out harder
than that. We play (Bathurst)

**ABSENT** 

The Mooseheads were without rookie sniper Nico Hischier, who has joined Switzerland's squad in preparation for the upcoming world junior championship in Montreal and Toronto.

eight times a year, and we have a rivalry. We know they come out hard, so we need to come out harder."

Reilly Pickard continued his solid play in the Titan crease after returning from injury, making 27 saves to backstop the victory.

The Mooseheads have now lost four straight. They end the first half with a road game against the Saint John Sea Dogs on Friday, followed by a home tilt with the Moncton Wildcats on Saturday.

"If we win the next two games it will make the Christmas break a whole lot better," Goetz said.

"Maybe we can catch someone else sleeping and start a bit of a win steak before the holidays."





### MAKE IT TONIGHT — Spicy Carrot Soup



### Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh For Metro Canada

Amp up or chill out the spices in this carrot soup depending on how you or your family like it.

#### Ingredients

- · 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- · 1 onion chopped
- · 2 cloves of garlic minced
- · 1/2 inch of fresh ginger minced
- 1 teaspoon chili
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon · 3 or 4 carrots, peeled
- and chopped · 3 cups low sodium vege-
- table or chicken stock
- · juice of half a lemon plain yogurt to garnish

### Directions

1. Warm a glug or two of olive oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium heat.

2. Saute onions, garlic and ginger for about two minutes. Stir in spices and cook for another minute or so. Add carrots and stir well until they are coated lightly in oil and spice.

- 3. Add stock and increase the heat until it boils.
- 4. Reduce and allow to simmer for about 20 minutes or until carrots are quite tender.
- 5. Puree in small batches until the soup is quite smooth. You may need to add a little water or stock to thin it if it's too thick.
- Stir in lemon juice.
- Taste and check seasoning. Serve garnished with yogurt.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

### CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

1. Help get the hockey goal 7. Shindig 11. Pop-ups, e.g. 14. Less tight 15. Taxi alternative service Orchestra 17. Reunion attendees 18. Municipality in Manitoba, Norfolk 20. Pine-\_ (Cleaning brand) 21. Cleric with a wooden bench 23. Lotus positiondoing class 24. The Enlightened One 25. Snake's toxin 26. Crouch 29. \_ funds 31. Serve the wine 32. Favouring 33. Maple, in Quebec 38. Festive faux firs: 2 wds. 41. Doesn't catch, as a bus perhaps 42. Meshwork 43. Gather the crops 44. Male deers 46. Hoarse 47. The Matthew explorer John 51, 1981: "Being with You" by \_ Robinson 53. Declare with certainty 54. Paper clip alternative 55. Sort of deposit 58. 'Crossroads to the Future' village in Alberta northeast of Calgary

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 29 30 28 31 32 33 38. 39 40 42 43 45 48 52 53 54 55 56 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 65 67

where Squirt the Skunk is the mascot 60. Practical 62. Work unit 63. Citizen of Ankara or Instanbul

1. Sigher's word 2. Unaccompanied 64. Carpentry 3. Inner light joint parts

4. Philosophy 65. Particular loaf 5. Lampoon 66. Pepsi holders 6. Gave it a go 7. On animal bone artifacts in archaeology, they indicate that tools were used, such as in the preparation

of meat: 2 wds. 8. In a country far away 9. Pictured

10. Letters with Prince

Charles' name 11. Cook's covering 12. Wildtdog of Australia 13. "\_ Heat" by Patti Page 19. Bionic part on Colonel Steve Austin 22. Specific-purpose

24. Mr. Karloff of scary movies 25. Green, in Quebec City 26. Internet junk 27. Ms. Spelling 28. Baseball stats 30. Money, informally 32. Boxer's hand formation 34. Range 35. Hive denizens 36. Jump 37. Catch a glimpse 39. Celebration 40. Ancient Greek creator of fables 45. Sailor's 'backward' 46. Peanut Butter Cups name 47. Tossed pole in Highland games 48. Office labels brand 49, Ecru 50. Alternatives 52. Butterfingers 54. Arctic seabird 55. "The Wizard \_ " (1939) 56. Bits of vocal acrobatics 57. Queen in Disney's "Frozen" (2013) 59. Long list ender 61. Disney animated

movie deer

### \* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20 Something unexpected will interrupt your home routine today. Small appliances might break down, or minor breakages could occur. It could be anything! Be a Boy Scout, and be prepared.

Taurus April 21 - May 21 Pay attention to everything you say and do to avoid accidents today, because this kind of energy is in the air. But if you are mindful, you will be just fine.

Gemini May 22 - June 21 Something having to do with your finances, your possessions or your cash flow will be interrupted. You might lose money or you might find something!

Cancer June 22 - July 23 Today the Moon is in your sign, at odds with Uranus. This makes you independent and rather obsessed with things. Furthermore, everybody is restless and irritable.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23 Something occurring behind the scenes will have a domino effect and possibly interrupt your life or your plans today. Give yourself extra time so you have the space to deal with this.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23 You can expect to be surprised by a female acquaintance today. Possibly, you will meet someone who is really different or "out there."

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23 Relations with female authority figures are challenging today. This includes mom, bosses, judges, nurses and the police. Don't test your luck. Be courteous.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22 Your travel plans will be interrupted today. You can almost count on this. Double-check all important details, and allow yourself extra traveling time.

✓ Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21 Stay in touch with your bank account and anything having to do with inheritances and shared property, because something might adversely affect these areas today. Make sure you know what's happening.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20 A close friend or partner might throw you a curveball today. He or she might want more freedom or demand a change. Or she might take you out for dinner.

67. Showbiz legend

Ms. Gabor: 2 wds.

DOWN

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19 Expect interruptions at your work place today. It could be anything: Computer glitches, equipment breakdowns and canceled appointments, as well as staff shortages.

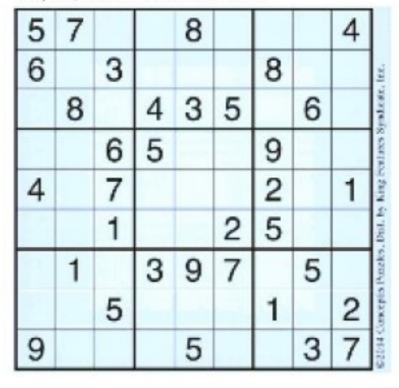
H Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20 Be extra vigilant today, because this is an accident-prone day for your kids. Keep your eyes peeled. Meanwhile, social plans might change.

### **CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green**

committee 2 wds.

Every row, column and box contains 1-9





### **YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS**

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

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